(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of coaches manufactured in the country and imported from foreign countries during the last three years alongwith the details of foreign exchange spent on such imports; and

(d) the details of effective steps being taken by Government to manufacture coaches in the country itself in view of domestic demands of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The production of coaches during the last three years in the country is as under:—

2001-02 — 2229

2002-03 — 1888

2003-04 — 2271

(d) Railways have created sufficient capacities to meet their domestic demand through its in-house coach manufacturing units duly supplemented by M/s BEML & Jessops. However, in view of the likely increase in the domestic demand in the future, plans for augmenting the in-house manufacturing capacity with marginal investments are being made.

Mysterious fires in bogies

605. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many bogies of the Railways catch fire mysteriously;

(b) if so, the names of the places where these incidents took place and on which date;

(c) whether the Railways have made detailed enquiries about the causes of burning of these bogies; and

(d) whether Godhra fire is in some way related to these mysterious fires in bogies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

ASSOCHAM'S suggestions for steel policy

606. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested to the Government to forge a steel policy which balances the need for making available adequate amounts of the steel as it is a basic raw-material for infrastructure development;

(b) whether, in a note the chamber has suggested that the policy direction on steel should be taken in a manner that would be compatible with the World Trade Organisation and other plurilateral policies;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered its views; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry (ASSOCHAM) had submitted a note in July, 2002 on a 5-point programme for revival of the steel industry. The issues raised by ASSOCHAM generally referred to the need for providing raw material at competitive prices, reduction in excise duty and other State taxes, reliable supply of power at reasonable rates, need to upgrade transport infrastructure and eduction in interest rates for financing capital projects.

(c) and (d) The issues related to several Departments of Central Government as well as State Governments. These suggestions were brought to the notice of the Ministries of Surface Transport, Finance, Shipping, Power as well as all State Governments to be kept in mind at the time of review of formulation of new policy.